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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/057,786	04/08/1998	JAY ALAN BORSETH	MSI-240US	6777

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EXAMINER

TRAN, HAI V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2611

DATE MAILED: 07/01/2004

#28

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	09/057,786		BORSETH, JAY ALAN	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Hai Tran		2611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 April 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 & 12-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 04/08/2004 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 04/08/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues, "Yoshida does not describe how such programs perform the corresponding channel setting or circuit selection functions for the destination country. Specifically, the reference includes no explicit or implicit teaching for "multiple channel-to-frequency mapping tables correlating channel numbers to corresponding frequencies for associated countries in the country table..." as in claim 1.

In response, Yoshida discloses a television set with proper program codes stored in a microcomputer wherein the system identifies the receiving country code by the remote control and selects and executes a proper program corresponding to the

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receiving country code by performing necessary preparation such as band and channel setting according to the receiving country code (Col. 3, lines 1-18). In order to perform such function, Yoshida's system must have a table of plurality of countries code (minimum two countries, i.e. Japan and USA) in order to configure the system to associate the corresponding country code to the channel-to-frequency of the corresponding country code in order to function as disclosed.

Yoshida does not clearly disclose, "The country table lists the countries according to an ITU code and wherein the country table is in relation with corresponding Table of Frequency allocations"; However, Yoshida discloses the system performs necessary preparation such as band and channel setting according to the receiving country code (Col. 3, lines 14-17).

Nalbandian inherently discloses the country table lists the countries according to an ITU code and wherein the country table is in relation with corresponding Table of Frequency allocations for broadcasting purpose on each state or countries is well known by Recommendation ITU-R (page 3; section 4.1); Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Yoshida's table country code with country table list according to ITU standard and wherein the country table references to an associated channel-to-frequency mapping table for the selected country, as taught by Nalbandian, so to take the advantage of the ITU standard and moreover to simplify the Table of Frequency Allocations, ease coordination requirements, promote equipment availability for international markets and

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reduce production cost, thus helping to meet the requirements of developing countries in particular, see page 3.

In response to Applicant's question regarding whether the references www.geo-orbit.org/sizepgs/ntscp.html and www.itu.int/ITU-T/publications/index.html are used in the final rejection or not of claims 1-10, 13-39 and 43-44, the Examiner respectfully submits that "No", they are not directly used or applied into the final rejection; However, they are used to support the Examiner's position regarding the Non-Final Office Action paper #17; dated 04/15/03 in which the Applicant argues that Yoshida's "destination codes" do not necessarily reference a "country table listing a plurality of countries" and "Nalbanian does not show a country table listing a plurality of countries..."

Referring to Applicant's argument toward Yoshida, the Examiner provides www.geo-orbit.org/sizepgs/ntscp.html to further support the previous Examiner's analogy that Yoshida (Col. 3, lines 15-18) inherently has/uses a table of country code for performing "multiple channel-to-frequency mapping table correlating channel numbers to corresponding frequencies for associated countries in the country table". Moreover, Yoshida, specifically at Col. 3, lines 14-17, clearly describes initializing televisions destined for Japan, Europe and the USA such that Japan and USA are countries. Since Japan is a country within Asia continent and USA is a country within American continent, it is fair to conclude that Yoshida must set up at least a table of countries of at least two countries, i.e., Japan and USA in order to function as disclosed.

Referring to Applicant's argument toward Nalbanian, "Nalbanian does not show a country table listing a plurality of countries...", the Examiner asserts that Nalbandian inherently discloses a country table list according to ITU code and wherein the country table is in relation with corresponding Table of Frequency allocations for broadcasting purpose on each state/country. To further support Nalbanian's inherency, the Examiner cites www.itu.int/ITU-T/publications/index.html in which it describes ITU-R is part of ITU's core functions (ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D) that includes "Television signal" as described in ITU-Broadcasting service (television).

Claim 12, Applicant argues, "there is no teaching by either reference to suggest that the destination code input according to Yoshida could retrieve band and channel settings. Rather, Yoshida initiates a program to initialize the television microcomputer according to the destination of the television. That is, from one destination to another, Yoshida reconfigures the band and channel settings of the television, and the reference makes no mention of band or channel retrieval capabilities. Thus Yoshida and the Owner's Manual are not to be combined by one of ordinary skill."

In response, the Examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicant because Applicant cannot show non-obviousness by attacking Yoshida's reference individually where the rejection is based on combinations of references Yoshida in view of Honda Accord 1996 Owner's Manual, page 89 .

In this instant, Yoshida discloses a television system able to tune to various television frequencies carrying television video signals upon transporting the tuner to a

new local (input a country code); to scan multiple channels within a particular locale (country) for corresponding frequencies and to store the tuning frequencies for the particular local (country) (Col. 3, lines 5-18);

Yoshida does not disclose, "Upon transporting the tuner back to the particular local, the tuner retrieves the stored tuning frequencies to restore operation in the particular local."

Honda Accord's Audio system discloses a method of configuring a tuning system for operation in a first locale by determining tuning frequencies for an associated set of channels; storing the tuning frequencies for the first locale; upon transporting the tuning system to a second locale, reconfiguring the tuning system for operation in the second locale; and upon transporting the tuning system back to the first locale, retrieving the stored tuning frequencies to restore operation in the first locale. Wherein the configuring step comprises the step of scanning for optimal tuning frequencies for the associated set of channels (see whole disclosure of page 89). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Yoshida to retrieve the stored tuning frequencies of the first locale from the memory and to restore operation of the first locale, upon transporting the tuning system back to the first locale, as taught by Honda, so to provide to user a convenience way to retrieve back previous storing programs from the first local as taught by Honda.

Again, dependent claims 4, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 43, and 44 were not discussed.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-10, 13-39 and 43-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida (US 5363142) in view of Albert Nalbandian (ITU-R studies on Spectrum management\Albert Nalbandian\ITU-BR SGD \ 02/05/98).

Regarding claims 1-3, 5-7, 21 and 32-34 Yoshida discloses a television set with proper program codes stored in a microcomputer wherein the system identifies the receiving country code by the remote control and selects and executes a proper program corresponding to the receiving country code by performing necessary preparation such as band and channel setting according to the receiving country code (Col. 3, lines 1-18). In order to perform such function, Yoshida's system must have/configure a set/table of plurality of countries code (minimum two countries, i.e. Japan and USA) associated with a set/table of channel-to-frequency mapping table of various countries in order to function as disclosed.

Yoshida does not clearly disclose, "The country table lists the countries according to an ITU code"; However, Yoshida disclose the system performs necessary preparation such as band and channel setting according to the receiving country code (Col. 3, lines 14-18) in which Yoshida inherently has/uses a table of country code for performing "multiple channel-to-frequency mapping table correlating channel numbers to corresponding frequencies for associated countries in the country table". Moreover,

Yoshida, clearly describes initializing televisions destined for Japan, Europe and the USA such that Japan and USA are countries. Since Japan is a country within Asia continent and USA is a country within American continent, it is fair to conclude that Yoshida must set up at least a table of countries of at least two countries, i.e., Japan and USA in order to function as disclosed.

Nalbandian inherently discloses the country table lists the countries according to an ITU code and wherein the country table is in relation with corresponding Table of Frequency allocations for broadcasting purpose on each state or countries is well known by Recommendation ITU-R (page 3; section 4.1); Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Yoshida with country table list according to ITU standard and wherein the country table references to an associated channel-to-frequency mapping table for the selected country, as taught by Nalbandian, so to simplify the Table of Frequency Allocations, ease coordination requirements, promote equipment availability for international markets and reduce production cost, thus helping to meet the requirements of developing countries in particular, see page 3.

Regarding claims 4, 8, 22 and 35, Yoshida further discloses the system performs necessary preparation such as band and channel setting according to the receiving country code also contain a television standard, i.e., SECAM/PAL, NTSC...(Col. 3, lines 5-18).

Regarding claim 9, Yoshida and Nalbandian does not disclose, "embodied in software as a DLL."

Official Notice is taken that software written, as a DLL file is well known in the computer art under Microsoft Windows environment. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Yoshida in view of Nalbandian by developing software for a specific television tuning system, as a DLL file, so that the DLL file does not consume memory until it is used, and because DLL is a separate file, a programmer can make corrections or improvements to only that module without affecting the operation of the calling program or any other DLL files.

As for "stored on a computer readable storage medium", Yoshida must has some type of storage medium so to store software program and countries codes as disclosed.

Regarding claim 10, Yoshida television system must have a tuner in order to tune to the requested TV channel.

Regarding claim 13, in combination with claims 1-8, 10 and 12; Yoshida television tuning system must has a video decoder circuitry coupled to receive a television video signal from the tuner to convert the received television video signal to digital video data and a video decoder module (software program) to decode the digital video data according to a particular video standard, as disclosed Col. 3, lines 5-18 (in digital computer environment, RF video signal received at the tuner must be converted from analog to digital so the computer processor could process the

receiving RF video signal. Once the converted digital video data is processed by the processor wherein the processor defines the corresponding video standard output to display, i.e., NTSC or PAL/SECAM, the converted digital video data must be converted to corresponding video standard in order to display to the TV display).

Since, Yoshida discloses the process of adjusting the tuner circuitry to a particular TV frequency and determine corresponding video standard output, i.e. NTSC, is based on computer program, the claimed "tuner module" and "video decoder module" limitations are further met by Yoshida's computer program since computer software adjusts both the video and tuner elements of the TV, see Col. 3, lines 5-18.

Regarding claim 14, the claimed limitation " wherein the country table list the countries according to an ITU code" is analyzed with respect to claim 1-3 and 5-7.

Regarding claim 15, Yoshida and Nalbandian does not disclose wherein the tuner module is "embodied in software as a DLL."

Official Notice is taken that software written, as a DDL file is well known in the computer art under Microsoft Windows environment. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Yoshida in view of Nalbandian by developing software for a specific television tuning system, as a DLL file, so that the DLL file does not consume memory until it is used, and because a DLL is a separate file, a programmer can make corrections or improvements to only that module without affecting the operation of the calling program or any other DLL files. In this instant case, the module is a tuner module.

Regarding claim 16, as discussed in claim 15, since the tuner module can be written and implemented as a DLL file, a programmer can make corrections or improvements to only that tuner module (DLL file) without affecting the operation of the calling program and does not have to replace the tuner circuitry and the decoding circuitry.

Regarding claims 17 and 25, Yoshida and Nalbandian do not specifically disclose the software program supports API to expose functionality of the tuner module (DLL file).

Official Notice is taken that API is well known in the computer art under Microsoft Windows environment. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Yoshida in view of Nalbandian by using API so that the Yoshida's software program could use those set of routine (API) to direct the performance of procedures by the computer OS.

Regarding claims 18, 23, Yoshida in view of Nalbandian tuner module/code segment (computer program) must store a set of television frequencies that map to corresponding channels within the particular country for subsequent retrieval as disclosed (Col. 3, lines 5-18).

Regarding claim 19 is analyzed with respect to claim 13.

Regarding to claim 20, as discussed in claims 1-3 and 5-7, Yoshida must has unique country code assigned to the country table list.

Regarding claim 24, Yoshida and Nalbandian do not disclose a television-tuning manager as recited in claim 19, "embodied as a software as a DLL."

Official Notice is taken that software written, as a DLL file is well known in the computer art under Microsoft Windows environment. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Yoshida in view of Nalbandian by developing software for a specific television tuning system, as a DLL file, so that the DLL file does not consume memory until it is used, and because the DLL is a separate file, a programmer can make corrections or improvements to only that module without affecting the operation of the calling program or any other DLL files. In this instant case, the module is a television-tuning manager.

As for "stored on a computer readable storage medium", Yoshida must have some type of storage medium so to store software program and countries codes as disclosed.

Regarding claim 26, as discussed in claims 1-3, 5-7 and 21, Yoshida and Nalbandian do not specifically disclose the software program supports API for a television tuning system and the API being embodied on a computer-readable medium. As for "embodied on a computer readable medium", Yoshida must have some type of storage medium so to store software program and countries codes as disclosed.

Official Notice is taken that API is well known in the computer art under Microsoft Windows environment. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Yoshida in view of

Nalbandian by using API so that the Yoshida's software program could use those set of routine (API) to direct the performance of procedures by the computer OS.

Regarding claim 27, as discussed in claim 26, Yoshida further performs all the functions claimed such retrieving all analog video TV standards supported by the tuning system, retrieving a current analog video TV standard in use (i.e., NTSC or PAL/SECAM), setting a current TV channel, retrieving the current TV channel, retrieving highest and lowest channels available, scanning for a precise signal on the current TV channel's frequency, setting a country code, retrieving the country code, setting a storage index for regional channel to frequency mappings, retrieving the storage index , retrieving a number of TV sources plugged into the tuning system setting and retrieving a type of tuning system (detection and setting by retrieving of a video decoding format standard, associated with different countries, such as PAL, NTSC, Secam etc. in order to decode the received TV signal), retrieving a current video frequency (met by the tuner); and retrieving a current audio frequency (the received TV signal having video and audio and the system performs any necessary preparations such as band and channel setting to the program data such as NTSC...).

Regarding claim 28, "receiving an ITU code for a particular country and selecting, based on the ITU code, a set of TV channel-to-TV frequency mapping for use in the particular country" is met by previous discussion in claims 1-3, 5-7 and 21.

Regarding claim 29, Yoshida in view of Nalbandian further disclose the step of selecting, based on the ITU code, a TV standard for use in the particular country, i.e., SECAM/PAL, NTSC...(Col. 3, lines 5-18).

Regarding claim 30, Yoshida in view of Nalbandian must store the selected set of TV channel-to-frequency mappings so to function as disclosed in claims 1-3, 5-7 and 21.

Regarding claim 31, As for "a computer readable medium having computer-executable instruction for performing the steps in the method claim 28", Yoshida in view of Nalbandian must have some type of storage medium so to store software program and countries codes so to perform as disclosed.

Regarding claim 36, Yoshida further discloses the step of scanning for a better quality frequency within the channel (performing any necessary preparations such as band and channel setting; Col. 3, lines 14-18).

Regarding claim 37, as discussed in claims 1-3, 5-7, 21 and 32-34, the step of indexing from an entry for the country in the country table to a particular Frequency Allocations table must be done by Yoshida in view of Nalbandian to perform the function as disclosed "if said destination code is [3AH], the computer identifies it as destined for Europe from programs stored within itself, performing any necessary preparations such as band and channel setting..." (Col. 3, lines 14-18).

Regarding claim 38, as discussed in claims 1-3, 5-7, 21 and 32-34, Yoshida in view of Nalbandian must look-up in the particular channel-to-frequency table (Frequency Allocations table) a TV frequency that correspond to the channel.

Regarding claim 39, Yoshida discloses computer executable instructions for performing the steps in claim 32 (Abstract).

Regarding claim 43, it is analyzed with respect to claims 1-3, 5-7, 21 and 32-34;

Regarding claim 44, it is analyzed with respect to claims 1-3 in combination with claim 4.

2. Claims 12, 40-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida (US 5363142) in view of Honda Accord 1996 Owner's Manual, page 89.

Regarding claim 12, Yoshida discloses a television system able to tune to various television frequencies carrying television video signals upon transporting the tuner to a new local (input a country code); to scan multiple channels within a particular locale (country) for corresponding frequencies and to store the tuning frequencies for the particular local (country) (Col. 3, lines 5-18);

Yoshida does not disclose, "Upon transporting the tuner back to the particular local, the tuner retrieves the stored tuning frequencies to restore operation in the particular local."

Honda Accord' Audio system discloses a method of configuring a tuning system for operation in a first locale by determining tuning frequencies for an associated set of channels; storing the tuning frequencies for the first locale; upon transporting the tuning system to a second locale, reconfiguring the tuning system for operation in the second locale; and upon transporting the tuning system back to the first locale, retrieving the stored tuning frequencies to restore operation in the first locale.

Wherein the configuring step comprises the step of scanning for optimal tuning frequencies for the associated set of channels (see whole disclosure of page 89). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Yoshida to retrieve the stored tuning frequencies and to restore operation in the first locale, upon transporting the tuning system back to the first locale, as taught by Honda, so to provide to user a convenience way to retrieve back previous storing programs from the first local as taught by Honda.

Regarding claims 40-41, Yoshida discloses a television system able to tune to various television frequencies carrying television video signals upon transporting the tuner to a new local (input a country code); to scan multiple channels within a particular locale (country) for corresponding frequencies and to store the tuning frequencies for the particular local (country) (Col. 3, lines 5-18);

Yoshida does not disclose, "configuring a tuning system for operation in a 1st locale by determining tuning frequencies for an associated set of channels; storing the tuning frequencies for the 1st locale; upon transporting the tuning system to a 2nd locale, reconfiguring the tuning system for operation in the 2nd locale; and upon transporting the tuning system back to the 1st locale, retrieving the stored tuning frequencies to restore operation in the 1st locale. Wherein the configuring step comprises the step of scanning for optimal tuning frequencies for the associated set of channels."

Honda Accord' Audio system discloses a method of configuring a tuning system for operation in a 1st locale by determining tuning frequencies for an

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associated set of channels; storing the tuning frequencies for the 1st locale; upon transporting the tuning system to a 2nd locale, reconfiguring the tuning system for operation in the 2nd locale; and upon transporting the tuning system back to the 1st locale, retrieving the stored tuning frequencies to restore operation in the 1st locale. Wherein the configuring step comprises the step of scanning for optimal tuning frequencies for the associated set of channels (see whole disclosure of page 89).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Yoshida to retrieve the stored tuning frequencies and to restore operation in the first locale, upon transporting the tuning system back to the first locale, as taught by Honda, so to provide to user a convenience way to retrieve back previous storing programs from the first local as taught by Honda.

Regarding claim 42, "a computer-readable medium having instruction for performing the steps in the method as recited in claim 40" is further met by Honda disclosures in which Honda must have Non-volatile memory with program execution stored in order to function as disclosed.

Conclusion

This is a conclusion of applicant's earlier Application No. 09/057,786. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the earlier application and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had

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been entered in the earlier application. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action in this case. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no, however, event will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact Fax Information

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or Faxed to: (703) 872-9306

for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

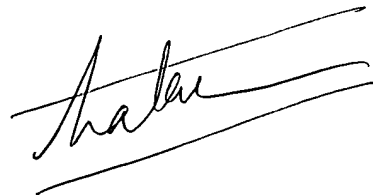
Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai Tran whose telephone number is 703-308-7372. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Faile can be reached on 703-305-4380. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HT:ht
06/21/2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hai Tran', is written over two horizontal lines.